

PAYS TO AVOID SUNSTROKE

SUMMER DANGER INTO WHICH AMERICANS RUSH.

Some 900 Killed and Many Trampled by It Yearly—Precautions Used in Tropics to Avoid Sunstroke—Its Warnings and Its Proper Treatment—Heat Exhaustion.

Every summer about 900 Americans die of sunstroke and twice or three as many more are permanently affected by it. Its effect is the mildest is observed as a recurring headache, partial deafness or some minor but chronic and annoying ailment. At its worst it is manifested as paralysis, epilepsy, meningitis, insanity or some serious functional disorder of the heart. Therefore it is plain that a sunstroke, even when it does not kill out of hand, is a very dangerous thing and that it pays to take elaborate precautions to avoid it.

Among laymen sunstroke is often confused with simple heat exhaustion, but in reality they differ very much. In the latter the temperature of the patient falls below normal and he is pale. In the former his temperature rises rapidly and he is flushed.

There are other differences, too, but those noted will suffice for the first aid amateur. In the treatment of heat exhaustion it is necessary to bring the temperature up; in true sunstroke it is necessary to force it down.

It is thus obvious that the mistake in diagnosis is very apt to prove fatal. Sunstroke is one of the oldest of recognized diseases, and at least two cases are described in the Bible. It is caused in the great majority of instances by muscular activity at a high temperature.

A laborer is at work in a ditch shovelling dirt and with the broiling sun shining down upon him, when suddenly he throws up his hands and falls in a heap. A fireman is at work in the stokehold of a steamship at a temperature of 125 degrees, when suddenly he drops dead. A golfer is chasing a ball across the links, when without a second's warning he goes sprawling and dies half an hour afterward.

Each of these men is a victim of heat stroke, of which sunstroke is nothing more than a variety. Other names for the malady are thermic fever, insolation, heat apoplexy and heat stroke.

In all cases the stroke is caused by the fact that the victim's body has become incapable of getting rid of heat as fast as it is generated. Ordinarily 80 per cent. of the heat that enters the body is radiated by the skin.

But on a very hot day, when the temperature of the surrounding air is greater than that of the body, this radiation almost ceases. Then, if the bodily temperature is raised by muscular effort, the extra heat begins to cause trouble.

The usual result is dizziness and a feeling of weakness, and these manifestations commonly cause muscular effort to be suspended and so the intensity of sunstroke is lessened. But the foolish person who insists upon shovelling dirt or chasing a golf ball after nature has warned him to seek rest after a slight attack of dizziness he suffers a sunstroke, and as a rule dies of it.

Anything which interferes with the proper operation of the heat-regulating mechanism in the medulla oblongata increases the likelihood of sunstroke. Alcohol is one such thing. The man who has swallowed a glass of whiskey is four or five times more liable to sunstroke on a hot day than the man who has stuck to limeade or cold water.

The usual symptoms of coming sunstroke are dizziness, pain in the head and a feeling of oppression. The victim has a sensation of suffocation and very often this forces him to stop work and seek rest in some cooler place. If he does not, the sunstroke commonly follows and after that insensibility.

By the time he gets to a hospital his face is flushed, his pulse is rapid and his temperature has gone up to 107 or 108 degrees. Beyond this point his condition is hopeless. He is laboring and loud and it is apparent to any one that he is a very ill man.

In fatal cases these symptoms grow more and more pronounced until coma supervenes and the patient dies. In those cases that end in recovery the fever slowly goes down, the pulse grows slower, the breathing ceases and consciousness returns. As a rule the crisis comes in from twenty-four to thirty-six hours.

It is obvious that the first thing to do in a case of sunstroke is to reduce the temperature of the patient.

In consequence the hospitals of the big cities now treat sunstroke with ice. The patient is carried to the place and flooded with ice water. His head is bathed, his whole body is sponged and water is forced into his mouth.

When a hospital is not at hand this treatment should be begun at once, on the spot. Carry the patient to a cool place as quickly as possible and open his clothes. Then pour cold water over his body and apply ice or water to his head.

Have no fear of using too much. Let the water be as cold as possible and let it be used unstopingly. It is impossible to have it too cold and impossible to apply it too quickly or too generously. Whenever feasible the patient should be stripped to the skin.

Meanwhile see that he does not suffer for want of fresh air. One of the most alarming symptoms of sunstroke is a sort of asphyxia or suffocation.

Place the patient somewhere where he may be struck by a strong current of air and see that no throng of curious spectators crowds about him. As soon as possible get a good doctor to his side.

The asphyxia of sunstroke sometimes becomes so marked that it is necessary to combat it with artificial respiration. Stretch the patient flat upon his back, tear off his clothes and work his arms up and down, slowly and rhythmically.

Nature usually gives ample warning of the approach of sunstroke and it is only the foolhardy man who is stricken. On extraordinarily hot days it is well to avoid all muscular effort in the sun.

If a short walk makes you feel oppressed and uncomfortable, seek the shade at once. If you grow dizzy and see colored lights, seek the shade and send for a physician. So long as you are able to walk to shelter unaided the danger is still but potential. After you have once fainted your chances of dying are uncomfortably large.

One reason why there are so many cases of sunstroke in the United States every summer lies in the fact that Americans have no proper respect for the summer sun. In Japan, for example, they insist upon wearing woollen clothes, high collars, thick shoes and heavy hats and upon taking their daily walks and strolls in their usual exercise.

In the tropics, where high temperatures prevail all the year around, the average white man takes elaborate precautions to avoid sunstroke and in most cases is successful. He never walks in the sun and all of his exercise is taken in the cool of the evening.

If he has to make a journey, even though he is one of no more than two city blocks, he rides. If he feels oppressed he stops work at once and rests in some cool place. If he is ill he keeps to his cool room. And his clothes show that he has the power of the sun ever in mind. Instead of blue serge he wears white duck morning, noon and night. Instead of narrow brimmed straw hats he wears roomy white pill boxes.

Instead of high, stiff collars and heavy cravats he wears a flowing scarf about his neck. Instead of clumsy black leather shoes he wears slippers of white canvas. His house is cool on the hottest days, for its ceilings are high, its roof overhangs,

it has jalousies instead of glass windows and it is bare of thick carpets and other useless furnishings. Arising in the morning he takes a cold shower bath and eats a very light breakfast.

At noon he eats an even lighter meal, and after rising from the table takes a short rest. In the cool of the evening comes his principal meal of the day.

Americans would do well in summer to imitate as far as possible this typical white man of the tropics. The investigations of Swift, Darrach, Gerhardt, Parkes, Packard, Wood, Pepper, Dowler, Levick and the other pathologists who have studied sunstroke prove that with ordinary care it is avoidable. Its younger brother, heat exhaustion, is also avoidable. The latter is less serious than the former, and usually yields to treatment quite readily, but it may pave the way for serious maladies and should be regarded warily.

Sunstroke, a British investigator, is of the opinion that sunstroke is an infectious disease, caused by a definite microscopic organism. He points out that it often occurs during comparatively cool weather and that great heat does not always produce it.

He also says that post-mortem examinations show changes in the brain tissues of victims which can be accounted for only as the result of bacterial activity. His conclusions were set forth in the *British Medical Journal* nine or ten years ago and usually yield to treatment quite readily, but it may pave the way for serious maladies and should be regarded warily.

Heat exhaustion is foreshadowed by a feeling of great weakness and restlessness. It may be produced by exposure to the direct rays of the sun, and then again it may be caused by sleeping in a warm room by overwork in hot weather or by exposure to great heat for hours at a time, as in a kitchen or bakehouse.

The patient's skin grows cold, his pulse becomes feeble and his legs scarcely support him. He is, indeed, much in the condition of a person about to faint from over-exertion, severe pain or loss of blood.

The most effective treatment involves the use of stimulants, but these should be administered by a physician.

The temperature of the body affords a ready means of differentiating between sunstroke and heat exhaustion. If the patient's skin is hot and red he should be flooded with cold water, as described above.

If, on the contrary, his skin is cold and pale he should be wrapped in a blanket. Inasmuch, however, as it is always possible for the layman to make a mistake in diagnosis, and such mistakes are apt to prove fatal, it is well at all times to get a physician at once.

One of the unfortunate things about both sunstroke and heat exhaustion is the fact that they have those who recover from their effects unusually liable to a second attack. The man who has once suffered a sunstroke is apt to be bowled over again, and this liability is much greater than in the case with the average man. It is therefore a good idea for those who have recovered from such an attack to avoid all muscular activity in summer—at least for ten years.

Anything which weakens or irritates the body increases the likelihood of sunstroke.

JAPAN BUILDING WARSHIPS.

Spirit of Nippon Shown in the Activity in the Shipyards.

From *Backwood's Magazine*.
Nowhere perhaps is the effect upon Japan of the recent war more potent than in her great naval yards, nowhere does the magnitude of her ambitions find more cogent demonstration.

The possessors of an island empire, the statesmen of Japan have not been slow to recognize the value of a strong navy and powerful and numerous merchant marine. Under a system of shipbuilding and ship running bounties her merchant shipping has made huge strides, and the advocates of State aid may point to the successful fleet for beyond the time of war in justification of their policy.

During the late war a single company, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, was able to place at the disposal of the Government 250,000 tons of shipping, with which it successfully carried to and from the seat of war upward of 1,250,000 men, 124,000 horses and close upon 2,000,000 tons of stores.

Under the same paternal encouragement the construction of the steamers of her mercantile marine aggregated by April last 951,000 tons—an increase in less than three years of 35 ships, with a displacement of 208,743 tons.

Striking as are these figures, and loud as the tale of the destructive competition of Japanese bottoms in Chinese waters, the tale of the great naval arsenals and dockyards is even more significant. A visit to Kure, the largest naval station, is a revelation.

Armed with an official permit, which read "Kure arsenal and dockyards, except the armor works," I gained immediate admittance from the sentinel on guard. The great glances of the arsenal and the dockyards of a spirit of imperious energy and indomitable will. You are brought abruptly face to face with one of the startling contrasts of the East.

Outside the wall of the arsenal, Old World courtesies, laughing children, sleepy temples, lecherous priests and smiling women—all the recognized incidents of quaint, fantastic, orthodox Japan. Inside the dockyard, the clang of iron on steel, the roar of machinery and the hiss of steam, all the bewildering equipment for the forging of engines designed for the destruction of human life, vast piles of ugly scaffolding, toiling masses and a ten-hour day.

Here you go the naval yards at Kure came into existence, the offspring of the war with China; to-day they provide employment for 30,000 men and are capable of building battleships and cruisers of the latest type. They are complete and self-sufficing in every detail. They turn out everything connected with the construction of battleships, from a rivet to a 12-inch gun.

Prior to the late war nothing bigger than a third class cruiser of 3,000 or 4,000 tons had been attempted. The war gave great impetus to Japanese naval construction, and in January, 1905, the keel of the first large cruiser was laid down.

Here all but completed in her dock at Kure, a powerful first class cruiser of 13,750 tons, the way lay for her ship, the Ikoma, though not quite so far advanced.

Japan's naval ambitions have not stopped here. She has built the Satsuma and the Aki, are now under construction at Yokohama and Kure, respectively. Not even the Dreadnought, the latest pet of the British navy, will boast superiority to these monster engines of war. With a displacement of 16,000 tons, a speed of 19 knots and an offensive armament of four 12 inch and twelve 6 inch guns, they will outrun and outfight any ship of the present time.

The enormous increase of the Japanese navy in the last two years has perhaps not been generally appreciated in England. The following is a list of the vessels actually under construction in Japanese yards at the present time:

	Tons.
The Aki, first class battleships	16,000
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In addition to the above the Kashima (16,000 tons) and the Katori (15,000 tons) are under construction. The following captured Russian ships will shortly be ready for sea: battleships, 1 cruiser, 2 gunboats, 3 destroyers and 2 gunboats. The aggregate increase in tonnage represented by the above vessels is 226,163 tons.

THE INTRUSION OF JIHAI

HE TELLS AN EDITOR ABOUT THE JAPANESE QUESTION.

A Show of Valor and a Message of Peace From Seattle—Finds the City Favorable to the Japanese. There Are Customs of Which He Doesn't Approve.

SEATTLE, June 25.—Seattle is full of my countrymen. Everywhere one walks in the city he is bound to come across with the Japanese. The southern section of the business district of Seattle is altogether Japanese.

Especially the Washington, Jackson and Main streets are strewn with stores, restaurants, cobbler's shops and what not, all kept by my countrymen. And I naturally feel as if I were in my own native country. But the Japanese are not necessarily confined to this southern section, which the citizens of Seattle call the Japanese town. In the hotels, hardware stores, soda water fountain stands and in various other establishments owned by the natives here one would find the Japanese attending in the capacities of bell boys, waiters, clerks and many others.

A well informed Japanese here, the proprietor of a Japanese daily here, told me there are about 6,000 Japanese in all Seattle. Six thousands are, he says, in mahogany. There are many as three thousand, which is the size of the Japanese community in New York. But the ratio of the number of Japanese in New York with the whole number of New Yorkers is far smaller than the ratio of the number of Japanese in Seattle with the whole Seattle.

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